

# *2013 Wildfire Season*



*Arizona State Forestry Division*

# *Briefing Topics*

- Fire Season Factors
- 2013 Wildfire Assessment
- Wildfire Resources
- Wildfire Mitigation



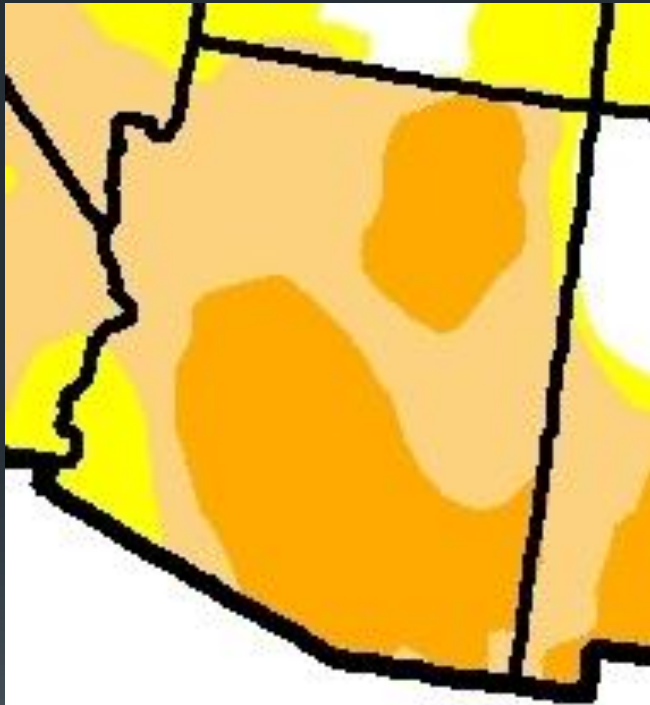
# *Factors affecting Fire Potential*

- Drought
- Fine Fuel Condition
- Seasonal Temperature and Precipitation
- Spring and Early Summer Weather
- Monsoon

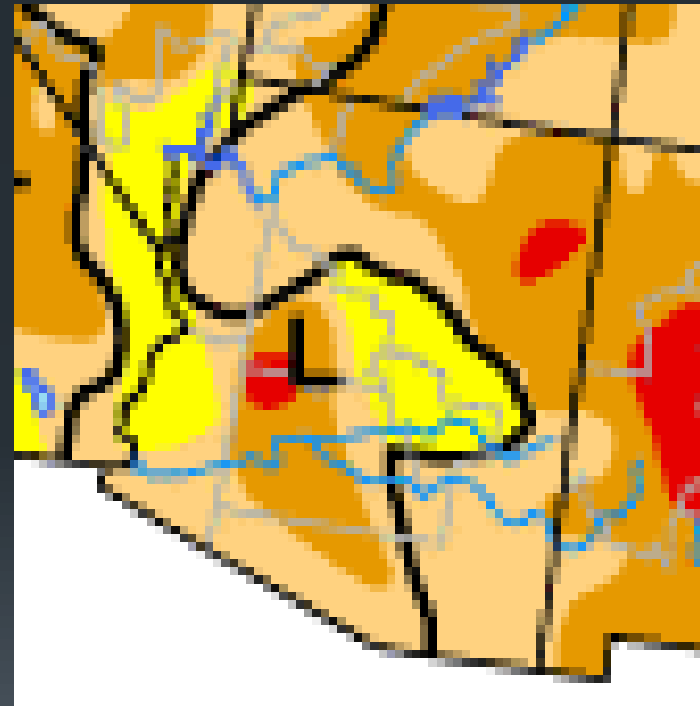
# *Drought*

4

March 2012

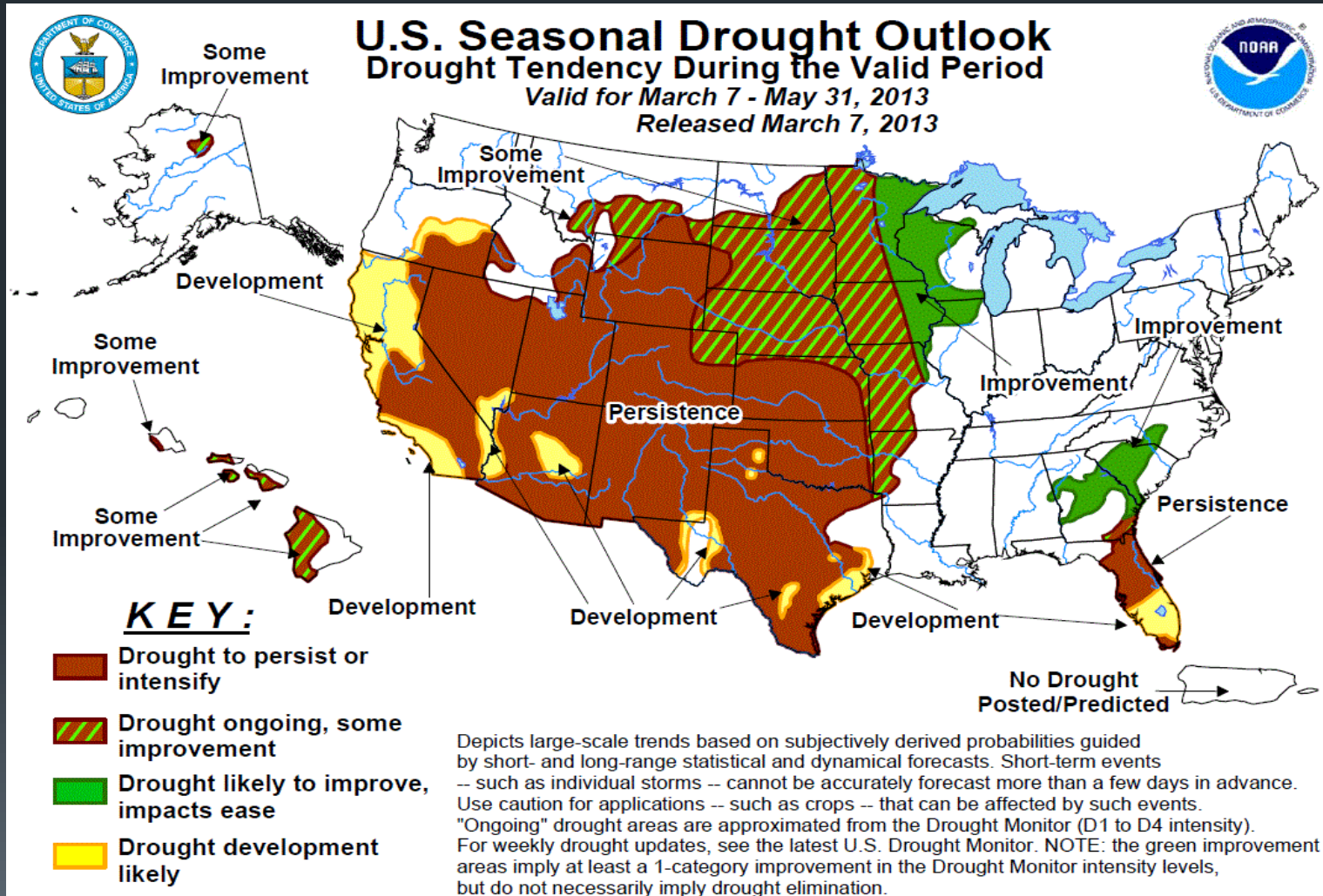


March 2013



# Drought Persistence

5



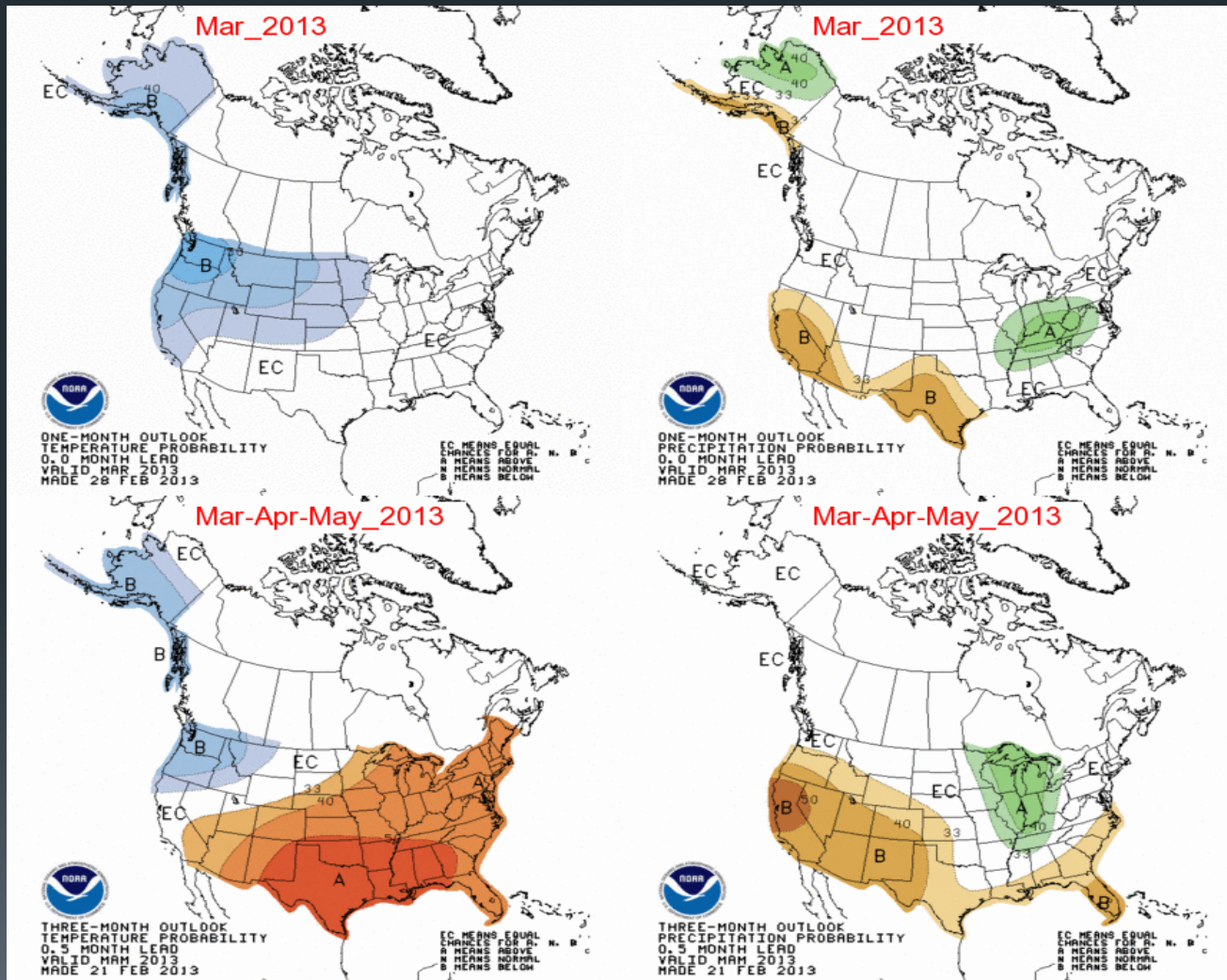
## *Fine Fuel Conditions*

- Overall drought means not a lot of excessive, continuous fine fuels in general
- Dealing with areas of residual fine fuels from previous wet years
- A wetter monsoon in 2012 in Arizona led to a more normal fine fuel crop in areas, some snow compaction has occurred along the Mogollon Rim
- Late Winter and Spring rains could bring a grass crop to the desert



# Temperature and Precipitation 2013

## Summer Forecast



# *Spring and Early Summer Weather*

- Two opposing outlooks from the same feature
- Western trough with divided jet stream
- Northern Storm track leads to storms staying north of the area, moving through the Great Basin
- Southwest tends to Windy and dry flow from the West
- Southern Storm track leads to storms dropping to Baja Ca and cycling through region from the southwest
- More moisture associated with this track, and distinctly cooler temps for Az

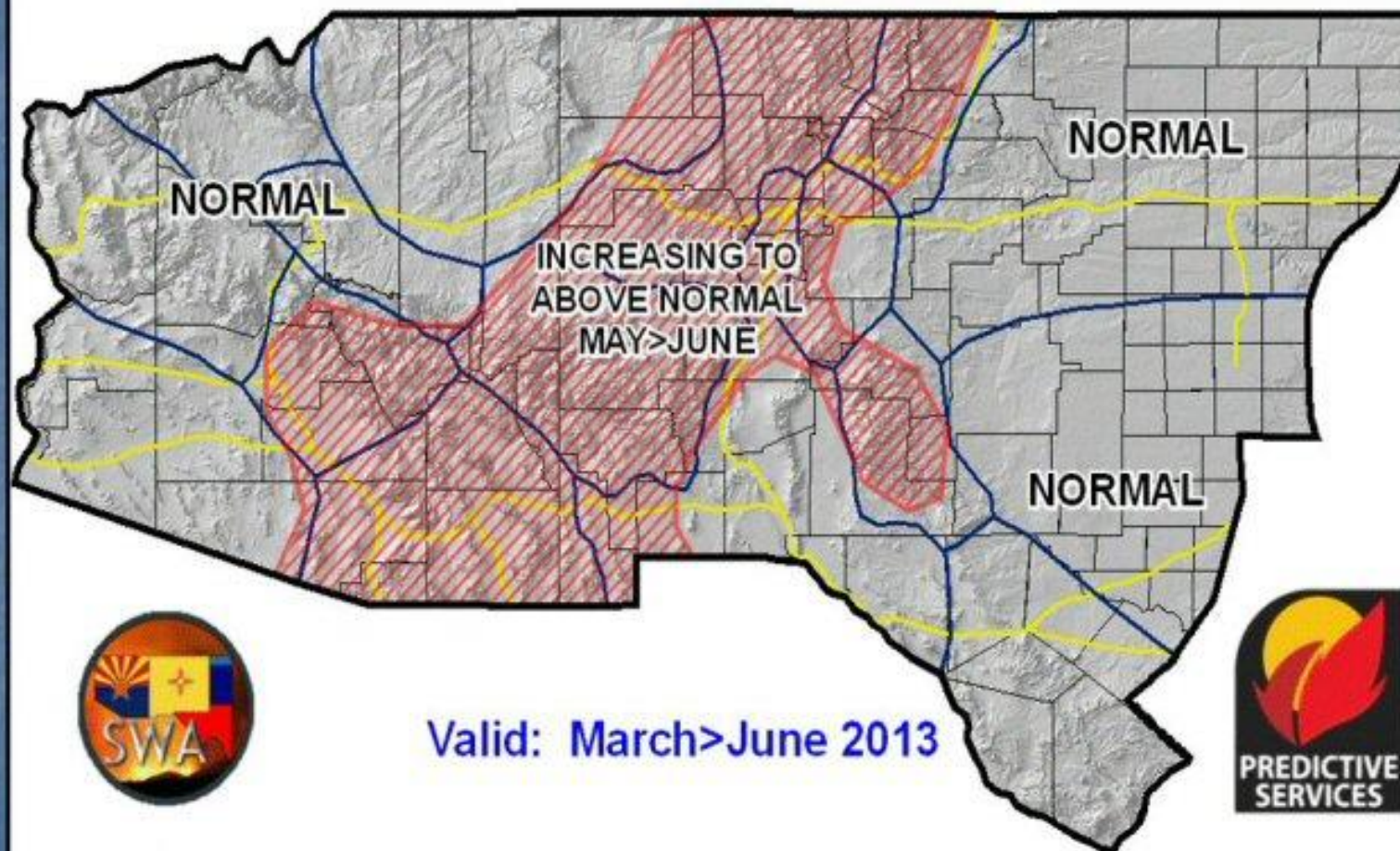


# *Monsoon*

- No good indications at this time
- Still in a neutral pattern

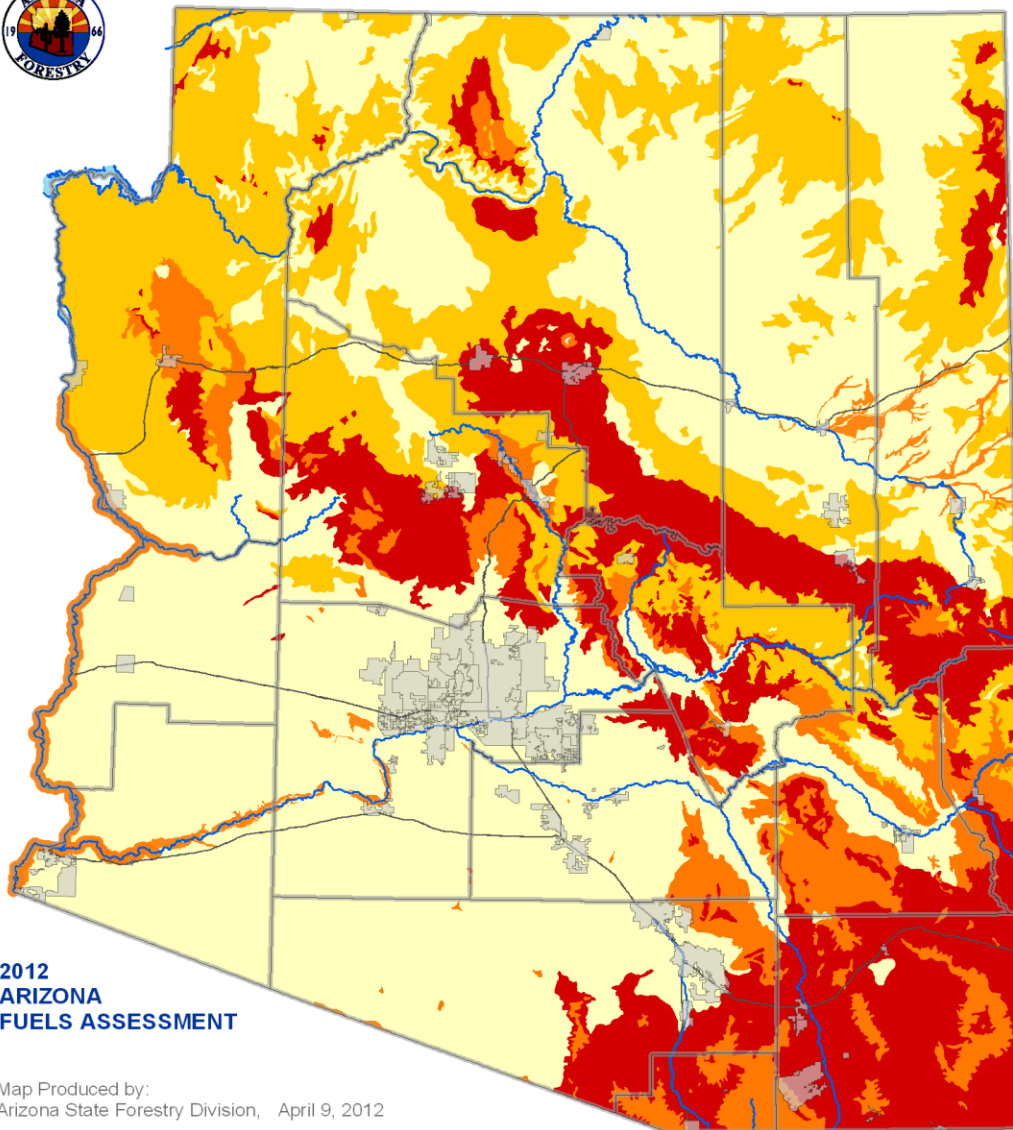
# Significant Fire Potential Outlook - Fire Season 2013

Created: March 6, 2013



Valid: March > June 2013

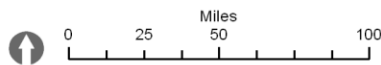




## 2012 ARIZONA FUELS ASSESSMENT

Map Produced by:  
Arizona State Forestry Division, April 9, 2012

Data Sources:  
- Basemap Data from Arizona Land Resource Information System (ALRIS)  
- General Fuel Types based on a summary of BLP codes developed by The Nature Conservancy in Arizona (Developed from Brown and Lowe's "Biotic Communities of the Southwest")  
- Supplemental Vegetation data and interpretation from Arizona State Forestry Division



Projection: NAD 1983 HARN / UTM Zone 12 N

# FIRE POTENTIAL

LOWEST

## LOW

- Great Basin Desert Scrub
- Lower Colorado Sonoran Desert Scrub
- Upland Sonoran Desert Scrub

## MODERATE

- Conifer Woodland
- Mohave Desert Scrub

## HIGH

- Subalpine Forests
- Salt Cedar Riparian

## VERY HIGH

- Ponderosa Forests
- Interior Chapparal
- Semidesert Grasslands

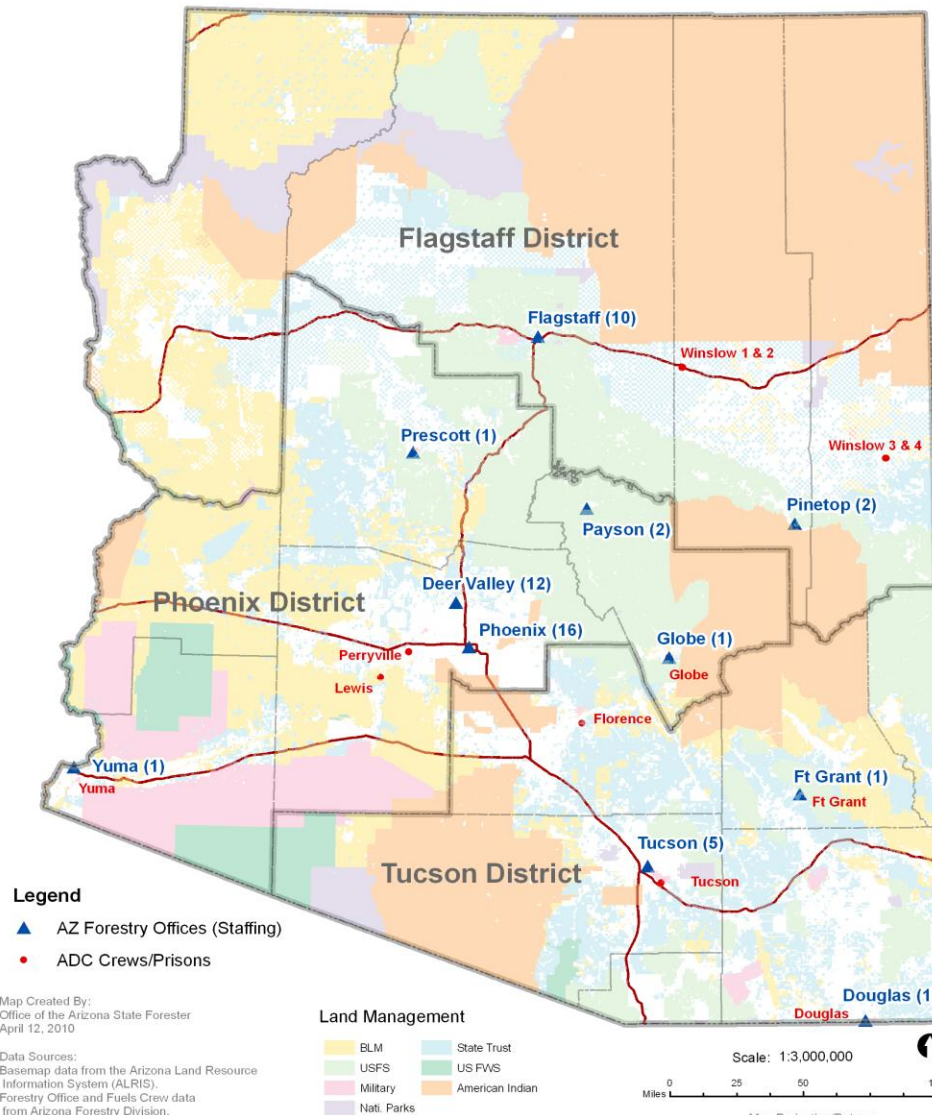
EXTREME



# Arizona State Forestry Division

## Office Locations and Staffing

12



*State Responsibility:*  
22 million acres  
of state and  
private lands  
(white and blue  
shaded areas)



# *Integrated Interagency Approach*

- Core Division staff and Seasonal employees
- (12) 20-person Forestry Division/DOC wildfire crews
- Single Engine Air Tankers (SEATS) as fire conditions warrant
- Ready access to:
  - 1,000 local fire engines
  - 1,800 local firefighters
  - Other state agencies
  - Substantial national resources



## *AZFD Mobilization Plan*

- New this year
- 15 groups vs. nearly 200 fire departments
- Extended attack only, initial attack by closest resources
- Better training of new personnel and maintenance of current qualifications
- Higher efficiency in response to wildfire
- Scientifically based mobilization following predictive services and weather patterns
- Unique among states

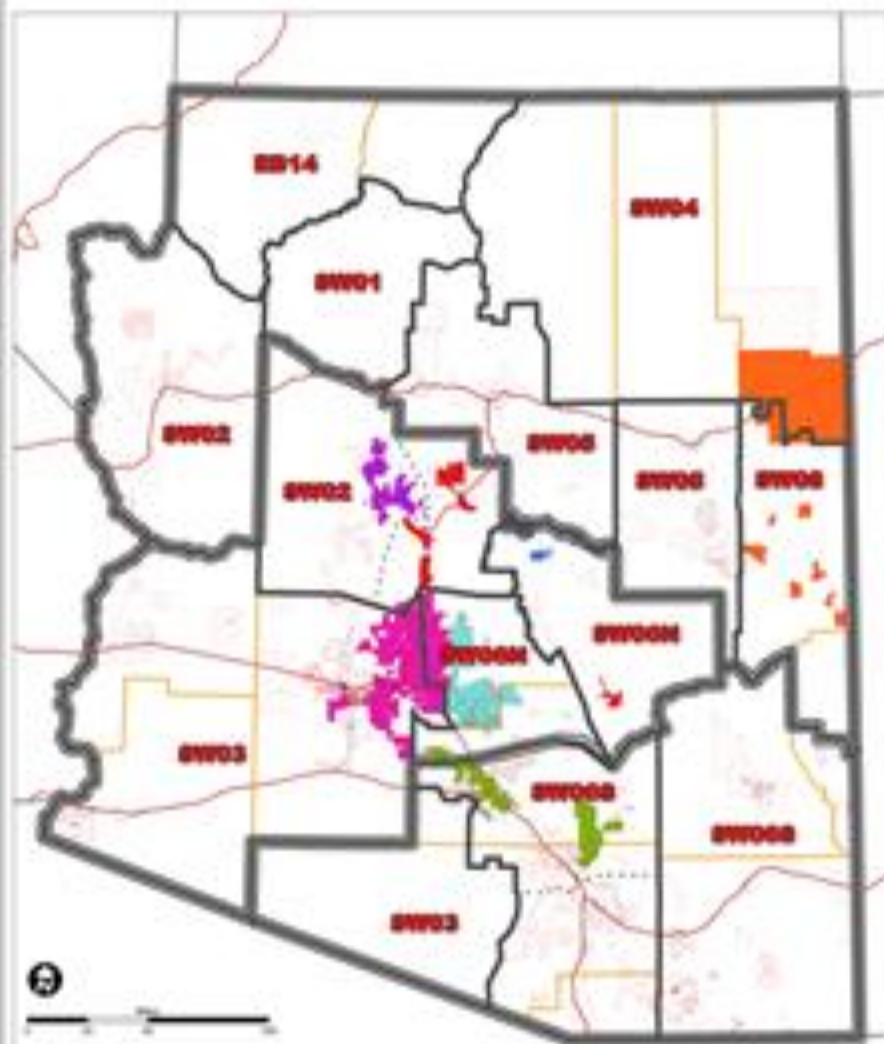
## *Operation of Plan*

- Dispatch Receives Order for equipment contacts duty officer
- Duty officer reviews what equipment is currently in field and relays to dispatch what group to request equipment
- Resource Duty Officer of group notified of order and contacts next fire department in group for dispatch
- Resource Duty Officer notifies dispatch of responding unit and provides pertinent information





# Wildland Fire Equipment Mobilization



## Arizona Wildland Fire Equipment Mobilization

Map created by Arizona Department of Forestry, October 1, 2014

Map Legend:

SWD-14: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-13: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-12: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-11: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-10: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-9: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-8: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-7: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-6: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-5: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-4: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-3: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-2: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

SWD-1: Arizona State Forestry Department (ASFD)

Fire Departments



Modified PSA Areas



AZ Forestry Districts

# *Wildfire Mitigation in Arizona*

- Implementing “Statewide Strategy for Restoring Arizona’s Forests”
- Supplemental Federal Funding
  - Hazardous Fuels Pass-Thru Grants
  - Other Co-op. Fire Program Support (SFA/VFA/Preparedness)
- Work with communities to mitigate risk from wildfires:
  - Community Wildfire Protection Plans
    - 26 plans covering 100+ communities; 7 more in progress
  - Firewise Communities
    - 50 communities

